

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02

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INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 2736

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 11220

PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY AND TREASURY (BATF)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EEC, ETRD

SUBJECT: EC PROBLEMS WITH PROPOSED US CERTIFICATION OF IMPORTED
WINES

REF: (A) STATE 215593, (B) STATE 267794, (C) STATE 269979

1. EC COMMISSION CALLED IN MISSION OFFICERS TO REPORT TWO
ADDITIONAL PROBELMS FOR EC WINE EXPORTERS WITH THE US IMPORT
WINE CERTIFICATION PROPOSAL (REF. A). THEY ARE:

A. GERMANY ALLOWS WINE TO BE LABELLED WITH A GEOGRAPHIC
APPELLATION AND WITH A VENTAGE YEAR AS LONG AS THE WINE IS
PRODUCED FROM GRAPES, 85 PERCENT OF WHICH WERE GROWN IN THE
APPELLATION AREA AND IN THAT VINTAGE YEAR. ITALY AUTHORIZES
CERTAIN VDQPRS WINE (CHIANTI, VALPOLICELLA, BARDOLINO, CALDARO,
BARBERA,

TIROLDIGO, AND VALTELLINA) TO BE LABELLED WITH THE SPECIFIC
APPELLATION AREA AS LONG AS 85 PERCENT OF THE GRAPES FROM WHICH
THE WINE IS PRODUCED ARE GROWN IN THAT AREA. ACCORDING TO
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THE U.S. PROPOSAL, THE CERTIFICATE FOR U.S. IMPORTED WINES

MUST STATE THAT "VINTAGE WINE LABELLED WITH A VITICULTURAL AREA WAS PRODUCED FROM GRAPES AT LEAST 95 PERCENT OF WHICH WERE GROWN IN THE VITICULTURAL AREA DURING THAT VINTAGE YEAR."

B. ITALIAN LAW SPECIFICES THAT WINES FLAVORED WITH AROMATIC EXTRACTS (E.G. VERMOUTHS) FOR CONSUMPTION IN ITALY MUST BE PRODUCED WITH WINE ALCOHOL. NO SUCH PROVISION EXISTS FOR ITALIAN AROMATIC WINES EXPORTED TO OTHER COUNTRIES. ITALIAN FIRMS OPERATING IN OTHER EC MEMBER COUNTRIES PRODUCE VERMOUTHS FOR THOSE AND THIRD COUNTRY MARKETS WITH ALCOHOL FROM OTHER AGRICULTURAL RAW MATERIALS SUCH AS MOLASSES. ACCORDING TO THE U.S. PROPOSAL, THE CERTIFICATE FOR U.S. IMPORTED WINES MUST STATE THAT "THE WINE HAS BEEN PRODUCED IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAWS AND REGULATIONS OF THE APPROPRIATE FOREIGN GOVERNMENT REGULATING THE PRODUCTION OF WINE FOR HOME CONSUMPTION..." COMMISSION OFFICIALS WONDERED WHETHER THE TERM "HOME CONSUMPTION" AS USED HERE WOULD APPLY TO ITALY, TO ANOTHER MEMBER STATE IN WHICH THE ITALIAN VERMOUTH IS FINALLY ASSEMBLED, OR TO THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE. AROMATIC WINES ARE NOT YET SUBJECT TO COMMUNITY REGULATIONS.

2. COMMISSION OFFICIALS TOLD US THAT ITALIAN WINE EXPERTS HAD BROUGHT THESE TWO PROBLEMS TO THEIR ATTENTION. THE ITALIANS HAD PRESSED THE COMMISSION TO MAKE A FORMAL EC DEMARCHE TO THE UNITED STATES ON THE MATTER BUT THE COMMISSION HAD FELT SUCH A STEP TO BE PREMATURE GIVEN THAT U.S. CERTIFICATION IS STILL IN PROPOSAL FORM. THEREFORE, THE COMMISSION WAS CALLING US IN INFORMALLY IN THE HOPE THAT WE COULD WORK OUT THESE PROBLEMS SATISFACTORILY BEFORE THE UNITED STATES WOULD IMPLEMENT SUCH A PROPOSAL.

3. COMMISSION OFFICIALS ALSO INDICATED THEIR UNDERSTANDING THAT USG WILL NOT REQUEST RENEWED WINE CONSULTATIONS UNTIL EARLY NEXT YEAR. MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION OF THIS. OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT DURING THE OCTOBER 21-22 US-EC BILATERALS IN WASHINGTON IT WAS AGREED THAT US-EC TECHNICAL CONSULTATIONS ON WINE SHOULD BE HELD IN NOVEMBER AND POLICY-LEVEL CONSULTATIONS ON WINE IN EARLY 1977 (REFS. B AND C). HINTON

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